

## **RST TASKING ASSIGNMENT RECORD**

**TDD TYPE:** Property Removal Action

**DATE:** 05/13/2016

**START/COMPLETION DATE:**

**Property Survey Preparation Start Date:** 05/13/2016

**Expected Completion Date:** 09/30/2016

**TDD #:**

**TASK MONITORS:** Eric M. Daly

**SITE CODE:** A23Q

**CERCLIS CODE:** NYN000206699

**EPA SITE/PROJECT NAME:** Niagara Falls Boulevard Radiological Site

**ADDRESS:** 9524 & 9540 Niagara Falls Boulevard

**CITY/STATE:** Niagara Falls

**COUNTY:** Niagara Falls, NY 14304; Block: , Lot:

**ESTIMATE OF HOURS NEEDED:** Approximately 500 hours

### **DESCRIPTION OF WORK:**

- **Background**
- In 1978, the U.S. Department of Energy conducted an aerial radiological survey of the Niagara Falls region and found more than 15 properties having elevated levels of radiation above background levels. It is believed that, in the early 1960s, slag from the Union Carbide facility located on 47th Street in Niagara Falls was used as fill on the properties prior to paving. The Union Carbide facility processed ore containing naturally-occurring high levels of uranium and thorium to extract niobium. The slag contained sufficient quantities of uranium and thorium to be classified as a licensable radioactive source material. Union Carbide subsequently obtained a license from the Atomic Energy Commission, now the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the State of New York; however, the slag had been used as fill throughout the Niagara Falls region prior to licensing. Based on the original survey and subsequent investigations, it is believed that the radioactive Union Carbide slag was deposited on the NFB site.
- For detailed Site History, please refer to bottom of TDD.

- In accordance with the Assessment Activities Section in the SOW, RST 2 shall provide removal support and perform the following activities:
  - Provide **three RST 2 Technician** to conduct tasks below.
- **Tasks include:**
  - Oversee survey subcontractor activities.
  - Maintain site log
  - Photo-document site operations
  - Revise existing health and safety plan (**Draft due 3 days before mobilization**)
  - Prepare site maps.
  - Prepare data products.
  - Document on-site activities.
  - Review attached Aerial and Parcel Maps.
  - Travel is authorized.
  - Overtime is authorized.
  - Off-Site hours authorized
  - Collect soil samples
  - Set up laboratory analysis of soil samples.
  - Air monitoring during operations.
- **Detailed Site History:**
  - The 9540 Niagara Falls Boulevard site (CERCLIS ID NYN000206699), hereinafter referred to as “the NFB site” or “the site”, is located in a mixed commercial and residential area of Niagara Falls, New York. The site consists of two parcels, namely 9524 and 9540 Niagara Falls Boulevard. This site encompasses approximately 2.53 acres. Currently, the 9524 Niagara Falls Boulevard property contains a bowling alley and an asphalt parking lot; the 9540 Niagara Falls Boulevard property contains a vacant building and an asphalt parking lot. The properties are bordered to the north by a wooded area; to the east by a church; to the south by Niagara Falls Boulevard, beyond which is a residential area; and to the west by a hotel and residential area.
  - In 1978, the U.S. Department of Energy conducted an aerial radiological survey of the Niagara Falls region and found more than 15 properties having elevated levels of radiation above background levels. It is believed that, in the early 1960s, slag from the Union Carbide facility located on 47th Street in Niagara Falls was used as fill on the properties prior to paving. The Union Carbide facility processed ore containing naturally-occurring high levels of uranium and thorium to extract niobium. The slag contained sufficient quantities of uranium and thorium to be classified as a licensable radioactive source material. Union Carbide subsequently obtained a license from the Atomic Energy Commission, now the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the State of New York; however, the slag had been used as fill throughout the Niagara Falls region prior to licensing. Based on the original survey and subsequent investigations, it is believed that

the radioactive Union Carbide slag was deposited on the NFB site.

- In September/October 2006 and May 2007, NYSDEC conducted radiological surveys of the interior and exterior of both properties on several occasions using both an Exploranium-135 and Ludlum 2221 detectors. With the exception of an office area and storage space at 9540 Niagara Falls Boulevard that was constructed after the original building directly on top of the asphalt parking lot, interior radiation levels were relatively low. The highest reading in the newer area was 115  $\mu\text{R/hr}$ ; elsewhere throughout the building, radiation levels generally ranged between 10 and 20  $\mu\text{R/hr}$ . Exterior readings taken at waist height generally ranged between 10 and 350  $\mu\text{R/hr}$ , while the maximum reading of 600  $\mu\text{R/hr}$  was recorded on contact (i.e., at the ground surface). At a fenced area behind the building located at 9540 Niagara Falls Boulevard, waist-high readings ranged between 200 and 450  $\mu\text{R/hr}$ , and on-contact readings ranged between 450 and 750  $\mu\text{R/hr}$ . Elevated readings were also observed on the swath of grass between the 9524 Niagara Falls Boulevard property and the adjacent property to the west that contains a hotel, and in the marshy area beyond the parking lot behind the buildings. Two biased samples of slag were collected from locations that exhibited elevated static Ludlum detector readings: one sample was collected from an area of loose blacktop that indicated readings of 515,905 cpm on the Ludlum detector, and one slag sample was collected in the marshy area that indicated readings of 728,235 cpm on the Ludlum detector.
- During a reconnaissance performed by the NYSDOH and NYSDEC on July 9, 2013, screening activities showed radiation levels at 200  $\mu\text{R/hr}$  with a hand-held PIC unit around an area of broken asphalt and 500  $\mu\text{R/hr}$  from a soil pile containing slag at the NFB site. Readings over 600,000 cpm were recorded with a sodium iodide 2x2 scintillation detector from the soil and slag pile.

- On September 10, 2013, WESTON conducted a gamma radiation screening of the 9524 Niagara Falls Boulevard property using a Ludlum 2221 Scaler Ratemeter. On December 4–5, 2013, further radiological survey information was obtained from the 9524 and 9540 Niagara Falls Boulevard properties, as well as the church property located further east of the two site parcels. The highest gamma radiation screening results were recorded from the exposed soil area in the rear, northern portion of the 9540 Niagara Falls Boulevard property.
- On December 5–7, 2013, WESTON documented the areas of observed contamination at the NFB site. The areas of observed contamination were delineated by measuring the gamma radiation exposure rates, and determining where the gamma radiation exposure rate around the source equals or exceeds two times the gamma radiation at site-specific background rates. The areas of observed contamination are defined by site-attributable gamma radiation exposure rates, as measured by a survey instrument held 1 meter above the ground surface, which equal or exceed two times the site-specific background gamma radiation exposure rate. At the NFB site, an area of approximately 168,832 ft<sup>2</sup> was found to have gamma radiation levels which exceed two times the background measurement of 8,391 cpm. PIC data were also collected at several points to confirm the boundary.
- On December 11, 2013, WESTON collected a total of 16 soil samples (including one environmental duplicate sample) and three slag samples from fifteen boreholes advanced throughout the NFB site and the First Assembly Church property located directly adjacent to the east/northeast of the site property, using hollow-stem auger drilling methods. The two soil samples collected on the First Assembly Church property are to document background conditions. At each sample location, soil samples were collected directly beneath slag; at locations where slag was not present, the soil sample was collected at the equivalent depth interval.
- The soil samples were analyzed for TAL metals analyses; isotopic thorium, isotopic uranium, radium-226, and radium-228 by alpha spectroscopy; and radioisotopes by gamma spectroscopy. The slag samples were analyzed for isotopic thorium, isotopic uranium, radium-226, and radium-228 by alpha spectroscopy; and radioisotopes by gamma spectroscopy. Analytical results indicate concentrations of radionuclides found in the slag and soil to be significantly higher than at background conditions (i.e., greater than 2x background concentrations).
- On April 28, 2014, EPA Contractor personnel collected radon and thoron concentration measurements from locations on and in the vicinity of the NFB site. At the selected locations in background areas, above the source material, and off the source area, radon and thoron concentration measurements in pCi/L were collected with RAD7 radon detectors. The radon and thoron measurements were collected at heights of one meter above the ground surface. The measurements included uncertainty values, which were taken into account to calculate adjusted concentrations for evaluation of observed release in the air migration pathway. There were no radon or thoron concentrations that exceeded

the site-specific background, nor were there any adjusted concentrations that equaled or exceeded a value two standard deviations above the mean site-specific background concentration for that radionuclide in that type of sample (i.e., there is no evidence of an observed release to air from site sources).

- On June 16, 2015, OSC Daly was assigned as the lead on-scene coordinator for Niagara Falls Boulevard Radiological Site.
- From July 2015-August 2015, the USEPA Region 2 Removal Program conducted gamma survey, radon sampling and soil boring sampling of the interior and exterior of the property. The goal for this assessment was to determine the extent of contamination (i.e. how far does the contamination extend beyond the contamination area of concern determined by Pre-Remedial Program), as well as, determine interior contamination impacts (i.e. are workers/patrons exposed to elevated levels of radon/thoron or loose contamination).
- February 2016, USEPA Region 2 Removal Program conducted interior soil boring sampling of the interior of one of the buildings that exhibited elevated gamma readings.
- On March 18, 2016, OSC Daly submitted a draft Action Memo to management for finalization.
- The weeks of April 4, 2016 and April 25, OSC Daly and Weston mobilized to the Site to oversee a property boundary survey in order to identify property owners and physical parcel boundaries at NFB.